



**Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board**  
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 700  
Washington DC 20006-4614

**February 19, 2010 Minutes**

A meeting of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board was held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, February 19, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. and continued until 11:15 a.m.

**ATTENDEES**

**Board Members:**

Earl E. Devaney, Chairman, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board  
Richard Skinner, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Todd Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce  
Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense  
Gregory H. Friedman, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy  
J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration  
Glenn A. Fine, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice  
Calvin L. Scovel III, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation  
Eric M. Thorson, Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury  
Mary Mitchelson, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education  
Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior

**OIG Staff:**

Lynne Halbrooks, Principal Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense

**Board Staff:**

Glen Walker, Executive Director  
Jennifer Dure, General Counsel  
Ed Pound, Director, Communications  
John Higgins, Director, Accountability  
Douglas Hassebrock, Assistant Director, Investigations  
Ross Bezark, Chief of Staff, Recovery.gov  
Tara Porter, Board Secretary

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Devaney called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. By unanimous vote of Board members present the January 22, 2010 minutes were approved.

Mr. Bezark reported on behalf of the Recovery.gov Committee that the number of reports changed under the “continuous update” process has been low. Mr. Devaney noted that the low number of report changes may be attributed to the improved data quality resulting from the edits checks that were implemented during this round of reporting. Mr. Bezark also reported that Board staff are working with agency and state groups to discuss technical changes that can be made to FederalReporting.gov to enhance the reporting process. Mr. George, Recovery.gov

Committee Chair, noted that the Committee is exploring identifying state Recovery websites that can be used as models by other states.

Mr. Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the *Review of Contracts and Grants Workforce Staffing and Qualifications in Agencies Overseeing Recovery Act Funds* report is being updated based on comments received from the Board and will be submitted to the Board for approval in early March 2010.

Mr. Scovel, Recovery Funds Working Group Committee Chair, provided an overview of the *Recovery Act Data Quality: Errors in Recipients' Reports Obscure Transparency* report. By unanimous vote the Board members present agreed to accept the report and publish it on Recovery.gov. Board members agreed to coordinate the posting of this and related reports and to feature the report on the Recovery.gov home page. Mr. Scovel also notified the Board that the Recovery Funds Working Group is moving forward with three additional data quality review efforts which will focus on the effectiveness of data quality efforts by agencies; the accuracy of data submitted by recipients; and anomalies in the data reported in FederalReporting.gov.

Mr. Skinner, Accountability Committee Chair, proposed that the Board adopt a policy establishing the frequency in which individual OIGs will provide a status update on leads that have been referred to their organization by the Board. By unanimous vote the Board members present agreed to adopt a policy that requests that OIGs: 1) acknowledge receipt of a lead and provide an initial status of the lead as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after the receipt of the lead; and 2) provide an update on the status of the lead every 60 days thereafter until the lead is closed. Mr. Skinner also discussed the need to gather Recovery Act-related complaint data from the Inspectors General responsible for Recovery Act oversight. Board members agreed that the legal opinion supporting the collection of this data should be shared with the OIGs responsible for Recovery Act oversight and steps should be taken to move forward with collecting the data as quickly as possible.

Mr. Devaney notified the Board that it has been unable to obtain a comprehensive list of all recipients that received Recovery Act funds and are required to report under Section 1512 of the Recovery Act. Mr. Devaney noted that this list is critical not only to transparency but also to the Board's accountability mission. Board members agreed that Mr. Devaney should continue to work to obtain the list.

Mr. Devaney noted that a draft of the Board's quarterly report was sent to Board members on February 17, 2010 and requested that comments be provided back to Board staff no later than February 24, 2010. Mr. Devaney indicated that the report is scheduled to be released in mid-March 2010.

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**Tara A. Porter**  
**Secretary**